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## SOLAR PROJECT SEEKS SUPPLIERS

With more than 900 residents and businesses in the north east now having registered their interest in the Solar North East project, the project manager is calling for Expressions of Interest from suppliers

Solar North East's Senior Project Manager, Tim Shilling said the next stage of the project was to receive and assess the Expressions of Interest from suppliers so that details such as types of solar units and costs can be firmed up.

"The registration response has been fantastic to date and people who registered their interest now know it won't be long until we can start to get into some of the detail around the type of units we will be offering as well as price and the rates for low interest loans," Mr Shilling said.

"We are seeking Expressions of Interest from all relevant suppliers: photo-voltaic grid-connected solar systems, solar hot water systems, water tanks and providers of financial services," he said.

The \$1million Solar North East program is a collaborative initiative of Alpine, Benalla, Indigo, Mansfield, Towong, Wangaratta and Wodonga councils and Sustainability Victoria.

It is based on the successful Pure Towong Energy project and aims to make the switch to solar easier for people.

The program's key features include:

- Bulk-purchase of solar panels.
- Provision of low-interest finance.
- Local Energy Assessors for advice.
- Potential to bulk-purchase other sustainability initiatives, such as water tanks.
- Collaboration with education providers to develop a youth scholarship for sustainability studies.

It is anticipated the project will facilitate solar PV installations with the capacity to generate over 4000 MWh/per annum of renewable electricity and also improve energy efficiency within north east homes and businesses.

Ends

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**For more information and to arrange a photo and/or interview, contact:**

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